paddy-mustard, potato, ginger-wheat, tomato, bhindi, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, tomato, brinjal and pulses, redgram, turmetic.

(ii) Unirrigated Areas: Sorghum, mustard, greengram, coriander, cotton, bengalgram, blackgram, greengram, soyabean, redgram, sunflower, safflower, groundnut, maize.bajra, caster, etc.

Due to agro-ecological suitability as well as cost economic return to the farmers, shift from tobacco cultivation is not being adopted by the farmers.

Low price of agricultural produce

3796. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of low price, farmers producing paddy, oil seeds and oil palm are facing severe problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps takeiyproposed to be taken by Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The prices of some agricultural commodities including paddy, oilseeds and oil palm have declined during the last one year or so causing concern among the farmers. The fall in prices may be attributed to increased availability by way of higher production and imports and fail in international prices for major agricultural commodities.

(c) Steps taken to protect the interests of the fanners include fixation of the minimum support prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof through public and cooperative agencies, implementation of market intervention scheme (MIS) covering horticultural and minor items of the produce at the request of the State Governments and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports. The Government is implementing MIS for procurement of oil palm fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) to provide reasonable prices to the oil palm growers, besides,

to reduce the adverse effect of import of edible on domestic price of edible oils and to protect the interests of palm growers.

Training of sniffer dogs

3797, SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to locate the people below the debris in the recent disastrous earthquake in Gujarat, sniffer dogs came from abroad; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to train sniffer dogs in the country, to be used in such times of need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture has no such proposal.

Approach paper on food processing industry

3798. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the approach paper on food processing industry;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to rationalise the tax structure for food processing industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that the food processing industry is presently under-utilising its installed capacity;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures adopted for full utilisation of the installed capacity?